ABSTRACT

A variable view arthroscope includes a tubular housing having a longitudinal axis and an input end, an input lens and a CCD in the input end of the housing for capturing and relaying an image object. In some embodiments, a variable view arthroscope with a plurality of viewing positions in a viewing range between a first end viewing position and a second end viewing position includes a tubular housing having a longitudinal axis and an input end, an input lens and a mirror in the housing for obtaining an image object, and a prism, a focusing lens, and a CCD in the housing for capturing and relaying the image object. The input lens and mirror are movable around an axis for varying the view of the arthroscope. In certain embodiments, the tubular housing has a longitudinal axis and an input end and the input lens and CCD are mounted in an input lens holder in the input end of the housing. The input lens and the CCD are movable for varying the view of the arthroscope. The CCD converts the object image into a digital image that can be viewed, for example, on a TV or CRT screen. The CCD can be used to replace a field and relay system, or additional focusing lenses and mirrors, thereby decreasing the cost and complexity of a variable view arthroscope.

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